

THE UNIQUE CHRIST ... and His glorious incomparability
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(JOHN 7: 46; LUKE 19: 30; JOHN 19:41)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be caged, Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace " (Isa. 9:6). This illuminating prophecy provides the finest Old Testament introduction to the Lord Jesus. No other person could have names such as these, and no other could belong to the same category as He. The Saviour stands alone in splendid magnificence ; alone, because by virtue of His person and power He is unequalled.

Unique in His Preaching. " Never man spake like this man
The leaders of the Jewish nation were very annoyed. They had had enough of this meddlesome Carpenter. They considered His teachings to be obnoxious ; His fearlessness was unpardonable arrogance, and the time had arrived to silence the upstart. " . . . and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him" (John 7: 32). Poor fellows! They only made one mistake, and we cannot blame them. The people were saying, " When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?" The officers of the law may be excused for the interest which made them linger on the outskirts of the crowd. Probably they planned to arrest Him when the service terminated, when the people had dispersed, and when there was less likelihood of a disturbance among the disciples. As they listened to His message, their hearts were charmed by the power of the preacher. They heard the Lord say, " If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink," and as they saw needy people responding to the invitation, they knew this was no ordinary speaker. He was forceful, sincere, fearless. No man spake of God, of eternity, of pardon, as He did. The meeting ended ; the officers looked at each other and, helplessly shaking their heads, returned to their masters. When they were asked to explain their conduct they replied, " Never man spake like this man " (v. 46).

Unique in His Power. a colt... whereon yet never man sat "
And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying, Go ye into the village over against you ; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him and bring him hither" (John 19: 29, 30). And all who are acquainted with the fury of unbroken animals regard this feat with amazement. It is not easy to break the resistance of a young colt. Until man has mastered it, its resentment can be volcanic. Yet in the presence of Christ, this unbroken colt was perfectly docile. And when the Lord calmly sat on its back, the little beast probably lifted a proud head and rejoiced in the privilege of carrying the Lord of Creation. No other man could have acted similarly. Many accomplished riders would have succeeded in staying in the saddle, but no other man could have instantly subdued the natural rebellion of the young animal. Could it be that the last Adam was demonstrating the power which God had given to the first Adam? (Gen. 1: 26). And did the unbroken colt condemn arrogant people? " Christ came unto his own, and his own received him not." The beast of the field was wiser than the people who watched it. See Zechariah 9: 9.

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Unique in His Passion. " A new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid "

"Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden ; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day ; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand " (John 19:40-42). Thus was Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled. Seven centuries before the coming of Christ, he had foretold, " And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death " (Isa. 53: 9). Nicodemus and Joseph gently laid to rest the body of their Master, and quietly went home. No other had ever lain there; no other had died as He died. Christ was unique in all His preaching ; He was unique in all His actions ; He was unique in death. He came to give to us His message, His power, His love. He was, and is, the incomparable Christ. " The chiefest among ten thousand . . . he is altogether lovely " (Song of Solomon 5: 10-16).

Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
Who can compare with thee?
Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
Fairer than all art thou to me.

Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
Oh, how my soul loves thee:
Fairer than all the fairest,
Jesus, art thou to me.

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